

In the Claims:

Please replace the pending claims with the following:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for use in parallel reaction of materials, comprising:

1
a base having a plurality of reaction wells formed in an upper surface of the base and extending partially therethrough, each of said reaction wells having a closed lower end defined by the base and an open upper end for receiving components for the reaction;

a cover configured for sealing engagement with the base to form a housing enclosing said plurality of reaction wells and defining a common pressure chamber in communication with said plurality of reaction wells; and

an inlet port in communication with said pressure chamber for supplying pressurized fluid to said chamber to pressurize said plurality of reaction wells;

wherein material and structure of the pressure chamber is such that the chamber is operable to sustain an operating pressure above 40 psig ~~the housing is configured to sustain a pressure substantially above atmospheric pressure.~~


Claim 2 (cancelled).

2
Claim 3 (original): The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the housing is configured to sustain an operating pressure equal to or greater than 300 psig.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the housing is configured to sustain an operating pressure equal to or greater than 1000 psig.

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the base and cover are formed from titanium.

Claim 6 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the base and cover are formed from aluminum.



Claim 7 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the base and cover are formed from stainless steel.

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a quick release fitting coupled to the inlet port for connecting the inlet port to a pressure source.

Claim 9 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a pressure relief valve coupled to an outlet port in communication with said common pressure chamber.

— Claim 10 (previously amended): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cover is removably attached to the base.

Claim 11 (previously amended): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein external dimensions of the base and cover generally correspond to standard microtiter plate dimensions for use with automation equipment designed for use with microtiter plates.

Claim 12 (original): The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said plurality of reaction wells comprises 96 reaction wells arranged in an 8 by 12 array.

Claim 13 (original): The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the reaction wells each have an internal volume of approximately 2 milliliters.

Claim 14 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said plurality of reaction wells comprises 12 reaction wells arranged in a 3 by 4 array.

Claim 15 (original): The apparatus of claim 14 wherein each of said reaction wells has an internal volume of approximately 16 milliliters.

Claim 16 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said plurality of reaction wells are spaced approximately 9 mm apart center to center.

Claim 17 (currently amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising~~
An apparatus for use in parallel reaction of materials, comprising:

a base having a plurality of reaction wells formed in an upper surface of the base and extending partially therethrough, each of said reaction wells having a closed lower end defined by the base and an open upper end for receiving components for the reaction;

a cover configured for sealing engagement with the base to form a housing enclosing said plurality of reaction wells and defining a common pressure chamber in communication with said plurality of reaction wells;

an inlet port in communication with said pressure chamber for supplying pressurized fluid to said chamber to pressurize said plurality of reaction wells; and

a flow restriction device positioned adjacent to said open ends of the reaction wells and comprising flow passageways formed therein to provide a primary flow passage between ~~to provide communication between~~ the reaction

wells and said pressure chamber while reducing cross-talk between the reaction wells;

wherein the housing is configured to sustain a pressure substantially above atmospheric pressure.

Claim 18 (original): The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the flow restriction device comprises a plurality of vent holes formed therein and aligned with said plurality of reaction wells.

Claim 19 (currently amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the flow restriction device comprises~~ An apparatus for use in parallel reaction of materials, comprising:

a base having a plurality of reaction wells formed in an upper surface of the base and extending partially therethrough, each of said reaction wells having a closed lower end defined by the base and an open upper end for receiving components for the reaction;

a cover configured for sealing engagement with the base to form a housing enclosing said plurality of reaction wells and defining a common pressure chamber in communication with said plurality of reaction wells; and

a flow restriction device positioned adjacent to said open ends of the reaction wells to provide communication between the reaction wells and said pressure chamber while reducing cross-talk between the reaction wells, the flow restriction device comprising a plurality of [micromachined] flow passageways formed therein and aligned with said plurality of reaction wells, each of said flow passageways having a diameter substantially smaller than a diameter of the aligned reaction well; and

an inlet port in communication with said pressure chamber for supplying pressurized fluid to said chamber to pressurize said plurality of reaction wells;

wherein the housing is configured to sustain a pressure substantially above atmospheric pressure.

Claim 20 (original): The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the flow restriction device comprises a plurality of check valves aligned with the reaction wells and configured to allow flow into the reaction wells and restrict flow from the reaction wells into said chamber.

Claim 21 (original): The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the flow restriction device comprises a rigid member.

Claim 22 (original): The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the flow restriction device comprises an elastomeric sheet.

Claim 23 (original): The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the flow restriction device comprises a porous sheet.

Claim 24 (original): The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the flow restriction device is removably attached to the base member with fastening means.

Claim 25 (original): The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising a plurality of vials inserted into said plurality of reaction wells for receiving reaction components.

Claim 26 (original): The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising a plurality of springs disposed at the bottom of the reaction wells for biasing the vials upward against the flow restriction device.

Claim 27 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein a circumferential groove is formed in one of the base and cover and a gasket is disposed within said groove to provide a seal between the base and the cover.

Claim 28 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the base and cover each have a periphery flange extending therefrom and configured for mating with the other of the base and cover.

Claim 29 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of vials inserted into said plurality of reaction wells for receiving reaction components.

Claim 30 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said pressure chamber has a volume of approximately ten cubic inches.


Claim 31 (currently amended): An apparatus for use in parallel synthesis or screening of materials, comprising:

a base member having a cavity formed therein, the cavity having dimensions generally corresponding to a microtiter plate ~~pressure chamber sized for receiving a microtiter plate~~ comprising a plurality of reaction wells for receiving components of the synthesis or screening, ~~each of the reaction wells having a closed lower end and an open upper end exposed to said pressure chamber;~~

a cover movable between an open position for receiving the microtiter plate and a closed position in which the base member and cover form a pressure chamber;

an inlet port in communication with said pressure chamber for supplying fluid pressurized substantially above atmospheric pressure to said pressure chamber to simultaneously pressurize each of the reaction wells from an external pressure source; and

a quick-operating fastening device operable to position the cover in its closed position and hold the cover in sealing engagement with the pressure chamber.



Claim 32 (original): The apparatus of claim 31 wherein said quick-operating fastening device is a four bar mechanism.

Claim 33 (original): The apparatus of claim 31 further comprising a flow restriction device positioned adjacent to said open ends of the reaction wells to provide communication between the reaction wells and said pressure chamber while reducing cross-talk between the reaction wells.

Claim 34 (original): The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the flow restriction device comprises a plurality of vent holes formed therein and aligned with said plurality of reaction wells.

Claim 35 (original): The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the flow restriction device comprises a plurality of micromachined flow restrictions formed therein and aligned with said plurality of reaction wells.

Claim 36 (original): The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the flow restriction device comprises a plurality of check valves aligned with the reaction wells and configured to allow flow into the reaction wells and restrict flow from the reaction wells into said chamber.

Claim 37 (original): The apparatus of claim 31 further comprising a plurality of vials inserted into said plurality of reaction wells for receiving the synthesis or screening materials.

Claim 38 (withdrawn).

Claim 39 (withdrawn).

Claim 40 (withdrawn).

Claim 41 (withdrawn).

Claim 42 (currently amended): An apparatus for use in parallel reaction of materials, comprising:

a base having a plurality of reaction wells, each of said reaction wells having a closed lower end and an open upper end for receiving components for the reaction;

a cover configured for sealing engagement with the base to form a housing enclosing said plurality of reaction wells and defining a common pressure chamber in communication with said plurality of reaction wells;

a flow restriction device positioned adjacent to said open ends of the reaction wells and comprising flow passageways formed therein to provide a

primary flow passage between ~~communication between~~ the reaction wells and said pressure chamber while reducing cross-talk between the reaction wells; and

an inlet port in communication with said pressure chamber for supplying pressurized fluid to said chamber to pressurize said plurality of reaction wells.

Claim 43 (original): The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the flow restriction device comprises a rigid member.

Claim 44 (original): The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the flow restriction device comprises an elastomeric sheet.

Claim 45 (original): The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the flow restriction device comprises a porous sheet.

Claim 46 (original): The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the flow restriction device comprises a plurality of vent holes formed therein and aligned with said plurality of reaction wells.

Claim 47 (currently amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 42 wherein~~ An apparatus for use in parallel reaction of materials, comprising:

a base having a plurality of reaction wells, each of said reaction wells having a closed lower end and an open upper end for receiving components for the reaction;

a cover configured for sealing engagement with the base to form a housing enclosing said plurality of reaction wells and defining a common pressure chamber in communication with said plurality of reaction wells;

a flow restriction device positioned adjacent to said open ends of the reaction wells communication between the reaction wells and said pressure chamber while reducing cross-talk between the reaction wells; the flow restriction device comprises comprising a plurality of micromachined flow passageways formed therein and aligned with said plurality of reaction wells, each of said flow passageways having a diameter substantially smaller than a diameter of the aligned reaction well; and

an inlet port in communication with said pressure chamber for supplying pressurized fluid to said chamber to pressurize said plurality of reaction wells.

3 // Claim 48 (original): The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the flow restriction device comprises a plurality of check valves aligned with the reaction wells and configured to allow flow into the reaction wells and restrict flow from the reaction wells into said chamber.

Claim 49 (original): The apparatus of claim 42 further comprising a plurality of vials inserted into said plurality of reaction wells for receiving reaction components.

4 // Claim 50 (original): The apparatus of claim 49 further comprising a plurality of springs disposed at the bottom of the reaction wells for biasing the vials upward against the flow restriction device.

Claim 51 (original): The apparatus of claim 42 wherein said pressurized fluid is pressurized substantially above atmospheric pressure.

5 // Claim 52 (currently amended): An apparatus for use in parallel reaction of materials, comprising:

a base having a plurality of reaction wells formed therein, each of said reaction wells having a permanently closed lower end and an open upper end for receiving components for the reaction;

a cover configured for sealing engagement with the base to form a housing enclosing said plurality of reaction wells and defining a common pressure chamber in communication with said plurality of reaction wells; and

an inlet port in communication with said pressure chamber for supplying pressurized fluid to said chamber to pressurize said plurality of reaction wells;

wherein ~~the housing is configured~~ material and structure of the pressure chamber is such that the chamber is operable to sustain a pressure above 40 psig.



Claim 53 (previously added): The apparatus of claim 52 further comprising a plurality of vials inserted into said plurality of reaction wells for receiving reaction components.

